

## I-710: Back to the Future

One hundred and eleven years ago, LA went electric and it is time we do so again! At its peak, over 900 electric streetcars crisscrossed southern CA, connecting communities and building the city into the nation's second largest metropolis. Then came the automobile and with their arrival LA became synonymous with smog. The good news is that cars are now a great deal cleaner and are only going to get more so. Federal standards for new engines in addition to innovative State and local regulations have ratcheted down air pollution. These solutions have succeeded: smog levels in the LA area have been cut in half over the past 30 years. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120810134105.htm>

So why does LA still has the worst smog in the country? The answer is dirty diesel trucks! The LA region has the largest port complex and freeway network in the country. Trucks and trains travel through neighborhoods, carrying goods to and from the ports and rail yards. In fact, forty percent of all the goods entering the U.S. come through the ports of LA and Long Beach. We need this trade to move our economy forward. We also need to meet Clean Air Act requirements so that the soot emitted by trucks, trains, and ships moving goods no longer kill 1,900 Californian's each year.

There are more than a million trucks on the road in California and most of them are old and getting older. **Unlike cars, trucks just keep on truckin' [Average age? Average turnover].**

The challenge is not coming up with a new technology, but rather it is ensuring that when the opportunity to transform the way we do business presents itself we seize it. Such an opportunity is the future I-710 freeway – the artery between the ports and the distribution warehouses. CalTrans has recognized the central role transportation plays in air quality to such a large extent that: “improve[ing] air quality and public health” is one the key goals for the I-710 expansion.

**[Need paragraph explaining the zero emissions corridor and why it is important. How will it make driving a car easier? How does the technology work? Why is it cool? Will it create jobs?]**

**Timely implementation is essential to meet our air quality goals [More...]**

The I-710 project affords us the perfect opportunity to deploy a full- fledged zero emissions corridor that can handle high volume port freight on an existing corridor. This is how we can grow our economy and protect the health of our people.

The time is now. And the place is along the I-710 corridor, where integrating a zero-emissions freight corridor adjacent to the existing highway is not just a possibility, but a real solution that works within the constraints of the existing infrastructure.

A proposed zero-emission corridor would serve as a catalyst for the introduction and adoption of large scale, innovative zero-emission technologies for Southern California and can provide a national model to demonstrate substantial reductions of harmful heavy duty truck emissions.